

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-06 HEW-06 IO-13 EB-07 /048 W

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R 131918Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9467

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1814

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, EAID, XL, US

SUBJECT: USG ASSISTANCE TO CARIBBEAN IN HEALTH SECTOR

REF: STATE 169388

1. EMBASSY NOTED THAT REFTEL SUMMARY OF USG ASSISTANCE TO CARIBBEAN IN THE HEALTH FIELD MADE NO MENTION OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CENTER (CAREC), FORMERLY THE TRINIDAD REGIONAL VIRUS LABORATORY (TRVL), LOCATED IN TRINIDAD.

2. BASED ON AN ORIGINAL USG COMMITMENT TO THE CARIBBEAN

CONFERENCE OF HEALTH MINISTERS IN JUNE 1974, WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT PROGRAM OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO CAREC FUNDED BY USG AT ABOUT \$300,000. PROGRAM INCLUDES PROVISION OF TWO USG PROFESSIONALS (ONE EPIDEMIOLOGIST AND ONE ADMINISTRATOR) SECONDED FROM USPHS TO PAHO, WHICH NOW ADMINISTERS CAREC AT THE BEHEST OF THE CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

3. WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT USG CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF. PROBABLY OMISSION OCCURRED SINCE PROGRAM NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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FUNDED THROUGH AID. WE UNDERSTAND FUNDING COMES

DIRECTLY FROM HEW.

4. ADDRESSEES MAY RECALL THAT THE REGIONAL VIRUS LABORATORY WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED BY ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND FOR MANY YEARS FUNDED BY THAT FOUNDATION. WHEN FOUNDATION FUNDING ENDED THERE WAS AN UNPRODUCTIVE INTERREGNUM DURING WHICH LABORATORY RUN UNDER AUSPICES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES. REVITALIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE REGIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WORK AND GREATER INTERACTION WITH LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIONS WAS KEY GOAL OF 1974 HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE AND WAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH TWO-PRONGED SOLUTION OF TRANSFER TO PAHO ADMINISTRATION AND SIGNIFICANT USG PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
FAY

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